

# hf happenings

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the week of 20 July 2015

## Why take part in the South African Radio League HF Contests?

Geoff Levey, ZS6C, says the three contests that make up the South African Radio League HF Contests are just around the corner. The contests that take place in August each year are the flagship contests of the League. The SSB contest is on the 2 August, the digital contest is on the 16 August and finally the CW contest on the 30 August.

Apart from being fun, these are the only contests that have trophies attached to them. The trophies are presented to the winners at the SARL Gala Dinner held during the AGM. Contests give one the opportunity to test your skills and equipment against your peers.

One must also remember that the quickest way to achieve other awards / goals such as Worked All ZS, All Africa Award, Top Band Certificate, DXCC, etc. is to take part in contests. Remember the most IMPORTANT part of the contest is to submit your logs afterwards to the contest host.

The easiest way of logging in a contest is to use the N1MM+ program, which is a free download. There are templates for the SARL Contest for the N1MM+ program available. At the end of the contest, it is just a matter of about four keystrokes to submit your log.

If you would like to find out more about N1MM+ program, please drop an e-mail to [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za)

Ward Silver NOAX, calls them the CQ ZS Contests.

Sunday 2 August - the South African Radio League HF Phone contest on 20, 40 and 80

metres. The contest runs from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC.

Sunday 9 August - the South African Radio League YL Sprint on 40 metres from 09:00 to 10:00 UTC.



The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend will be on the air on 15 and 16 August. It is not a contest. At present 12 South African Lighthouses will be active - 11 on the mainland and Dassen

Island (IOTA AF-064).

Sunday 16 August - the South African Radio League HF Digital contest on 20, 40 and 80 metres with PSK and RTTY. The contest runs from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC.

Sunday 30 August - the South African Radio League HF CW contest on 20, 40 and 80 metres. The contest runs from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC.

## A conductor and an insulator

Scientists at the University of Cambridge have described a new class of metallic materials, which appears to act as a conductor and an insulator simultaneously [www.gizmag.com/samarium-hexaboride-conductor-insulator/38335](http://www.gizmag.com/samarium-hexaboride-conductor-insulator/38335). Samarium hexaboride is an insulator at low temperatures. However when the researchers examined a sample while it was subject to a magnetic field, they observed free mobility of electronics more indicative of a conductor [www.wired.com/2015/07/paradoxical-crystal-baffles-physicists/](http://www.wired.com/2015/07/paradoxical-crystal-baffles-physicists/). Though this



South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



compound has been studied for decades, it is still too soon to tell what this latest observation could mean. The *original article* appeared in *Quanta Magazine*

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/20150702-paradoxical-crystal-baffles-physicists/>

### Operating Tip

If a 'dupe' calls you while you are running, work them and continue. There are very few, perhaps zero, contests, which will penalise you for logging duplicate contacts. Do not explain to your caller that you have worked before. It generally takes more time than just working them again. However, if they have called you three times before in the same contest, you do not have to answer their fourth call. Respond to someone else. The only exception to consider may be contests with long exchanges, like Sweepstakes.

### RTTY Signals

If you are using a computer to generate your RTTY signals, you might not be aware that the timing of our transmitted characters could be affected by everything else your computer has to do at the same time (e.g. logging, anti-virus, spot processing, etc.). There is a great guest column by Larry, K8UT, about bit jitter in NCJ July/August 2015's "RTTY Contesting" column, and how it can be eliminated by hardware generation of RTTY characters. Here is a link to Ed, WOYK's previous comments on eliminating Jitter from the RTTY contesting reflector <http://lists.contesting.com/archives/html/RTTY/2014-12/msg00002.html>. The reason why you should be aware of this issue is that stations receiving a jittery signal may not be able to decode it effectively, and they will ask for repeats. Alternatively, if you are calling CQ, listeners may not be able to decode your call.

### Georgia, 4L

Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M, President of the National Association Radio Amateurs of Georgia (NARG) says, "Please inform to all radio amateurs not to send QSL cards to the

July

#### 1 – Your SARL membership starts (if you have paid)

1 to 4 – Innibos National Arts Festival, Nelspruit

2 to 12 – Grahamstown National Arts Festival

3 and 4 – Wild Mushroom Weekend, Stellenbosch

3 to 5 – Indie Karoo Film Festival, Prince Albert

3 to 12 – Knysna Oyster Festival

4 – Durban July Classic

#### 5 – ZS5 Sprint

11 and 12 – IARU HF Championships

11 and 12 – Franschhoek Bastille Festival

13 to 18 – Free State Arts Festival, Bloemfontein

17 – Eid-ul-Fitr

#### 18 – SARL Winter QRP Contest

18 to 25 – Youth on the Air Camp, Italy

18 and 19 – Drakensberg Gardens MTB and Trail Running Challenge

19 – Scottburgh Classic Car Show

20 – All schools open

25 and 26 – RSGB Islands on the Air Contest

August

#### 2 – CQ ZS, the SARL HF Phone Contest

9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint

10 – Public Holiday

15 and 16 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

#### 16 – CQ ZS, the SARL HF Digital Contest

22 – Amateur Radio in Action – Johannesburg

30 – CQ ZS, the SARL HF CW Contest

following stations: 4L1AB, 4L4T, 4L4K, 4L4MM, 4L4TL and 4L7FS because all of them are 'SILENT KEYS' (SK)."

### CQ News (Press Release)

Rich Moseson, W2VU, sent out the following on 16 July: Lazar, Siddall, join CQ as Contributing Editors. Two long-time hams will be joining CQ magazine's staff of contributing editors, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, announced today.

Dennis Lazar, W4DNN, has been named interim QRP Editor, effective with the August issue; while David Siddall, K3ZJ, takes over as Contest Editor as of the September issue.

Lazar is a long-time devotee of QRP, or low power, operating, with 50 years of experience in working the world with 5 watts or less. Originally licensed in 1960 as

K8TSQ, Dennis has enjoyed a long and varied career as an electronic technician in the Coast Guard, working for a NASA subcontractor on the Apollo moon missions, as a trade magazine editor, a community newspaper publisher and a naturopath specializing in pain management. He has also been a frequent contributor to CQ. Now retired and living in Port Charlotte, Florida, Dennis and his wife, Ruth, K4KLQ, enjoy traveling the country in an RV, with QRP always a part of their travels. Dennis is taking on the role of QRP Editor on an interim basis while he sees how well a column-writing schedule fits in with his travel schedule. His goal for the column, he says, is to use it as a forum to share readers' "QRP challenges and adventures."

Siddall is a veteran contester and past president of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, one of America's leading contesting groups. He lives in suburban Washington, DC, but has a contest station on a mountaintop in West Virginia (featured on the cover of the July 2000 issue of CQ) that may be operated either locally or remotely. A communications attorney practicing in the nation's capital, Dave worked for many years on Capitol Hill and at the FCC before going into private practice in 1998. During his time working for Congress, Dave was frequently active from the US Senate ham station, W3USS, and organized the 1986 BV0BG DXpedition in Taiwan for Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK). He is also a past member of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee and served on the ARRL's national task force on radio frequency interference. Siddall says he hopes to use the CQ contesting column "to bring together tried-and-true contesting techniques" with "new ideas and technologies in a way that encourages testers to experiment and improve their results."

"Both Dave and Dennis have written for CQ before and I have known each of them for a long time," said Moseson. "I am looking forward to working closely with them in the future."

## VK9WA Willis Island DXpedition News

An international team will activate an amateur radio DXpedition station VK9WA from Willis Islets between 14 and 23 November. They announced this past week on their web page, <http://vk9wa.com>, "Our eight man team, <http://vk9wa.com/team>, is now complete. Fund-raising and planning continue. We are grateful for significant sponsorships by INDEXA [www.indexa.org](http://www.indexa.org) and the German DX Foundation [www.gdxf.de](http://www.gdxf.de). We are happy to announce a partnership with Tangaroa Blue Foundation [www.tangaroablue.org](http://www.tangaroablue.org) and the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, in conjunction with Parks Australia and the Department of the Environment, to conduct an island clean-up and debris inventory of Middle Cay. This clean-up and our ecology and animal reports will provide valuable data and help protect the many sensitive and threatened species of Willis Island."

Added Details: The complete list of operators is now Robert, N7QT (Co-team leader), Jared, N7SMI (Co-team leader), Sandro, VE7NY, Adam, K7EDX, Hawk, SM5AQD, Gus, SM3SGP, Allan, VE7SZ, and Hal, W8HC. Pilot stations are Mike, K4PI (NA), Cédric, F5UKW (EU) and Andre, V51B (AF).

The on-air operations will last 10 days with high power CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 to 10 metres (possibly 6 metres). Their primary focus will be providing all time new contacts with this highly demanded, rarely activated entity with an emphasis on difficult paths - primarily US East Coast, Europe, and Africa.

## VK0EK DXpedition News

The current Heard Island Expedition Newsletter (Vol. 1, No. 2) is now out. Individuals may have already received this because they subscribed to it, or you made a donation to the expedition, or they are a team member or a corporate sponsor, or Bob, KK6EK, just happen to know you and think you would like to have it. This issue goes to 666 different people.

Bob also informs [edited], "There is no charge or obligation for this - we just want to help you make a QSO with VKOEk, or to collaborate in the scientific work. Future Newsletters will be issued now and then, when we have something to say, probably every few weeks. If you missed a previous Newsletter and would like to have a copy, please send me a note to [schmied-er@cordell.org](mailto:schmied-er@cordell.org)

The expedition is scheduled to begin in early March 2016 and end in late April. You can see the status of the project on the main website [www.heardisland.org](http://www.heardisland.org) and on the blogsite [www.vkOek.org](http://www.vkOek.org). I hope you like this Newsletter and find it useful. If you have suggestions, comments, subjects you would like to see addressed, etc., or wish to be removed from the distribution list, please write to me.....

Bob, KK6EK, Organizer/Expedition Leader"

For more details on the mailing list for the newsletter, go to [www.heardisland.org/HD\\_pages/HD\\_newsletter.php](http://www.heardisland.org/HD_pages/HD_newsletter.php)

## VP8SGI and VP8STI DXpedition News

Paul, N6PSE, sent out the following press release on 15 July.

The Intrepid DX Group is pleased to announce that all of our plans are moving forward very well. We are testing and re-testing our gear one last time before it goes into a container next week and makes its voyage to meet the RV Braveheart in New Zealand.

This will be a "Pure DX" event. We have assembled a team of World-Class experienced operators, including two DX Hall of Fame members. We are not doing any mountain climbing, creature collection or software development. Our focus is on getting you in our logs!

At this time, we wish to announce that we are adding 6 metres as well as 60 metres to our plans. We will make a solid ef-

fort to be active and to give out contacts on these bands as well as 10 to 160 metres.

We wish to clarify our operating strategy: We will be active on 6 to 160 metres with six stations and we invite you to work us on all bands and modes. We will also select a band that is propagating for the most hours of the day and we will be active on that band for the duration of our activity. This is a means to increase the number of unique call signs in our logs and to give everyone a chance to work us. We will be looking to give ATNO contacts at every opportunity.

Our goal is to conduct two 8 to 10 day DXpeditions to each of these top ten entities.

Thank you, the Intrepid-DX Group  
VP8 Team

## Word to the Wise

Grazing Incidence - radio waves hitting a layer of the ionosphere at very small angles with respect to the layer, which are then reflected, are referred to as "grazing incidence." Picture a rock skipping across a lake - the smaller the angle between the path of the rock and the surface of the lake, the more likely a skip.

## 50 MHz F2 Propagation

Though primarily targeted towards explaining how F2 Propagation on 50 MHz works, this article by K6MIO on 50 MHz F2 propagation provides a good explanation of atmospheric ionization and choice other tit-bits, such as that >50% of the mass of the earth's atmosphere is concentrated in the lower 6 km. Visit [www.ham-ra-dio.com/n6ca/50MHz/K6MIO\\_50MHz\\_F2Prop.pdf](http://www.ham-ra-dio.com/n6ca/50MHz/K6MIO_50MHz_F2Prop.pdf)

## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18  
098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3  
530 kHz





SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128  
14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Pantelleria Island, AF-018. Raffaele, IH9YMC, will be active from Pantelleria Island (WW Loc JM56xt), African Italy, during the RSGB IOTA Contest, 25 and 26 July as a Single-Op/Single-Band (??) entry. QSL via eQSL.

Cape Verde, D4. Jose, EA1ACP, Charly, EA1DVY, Gen, EA5HPX, Francisco, EA7FTR, Humberto, CX3AN, Gustavo, CX2AM, Mario, CX4CR and David, EB7DX will be active as D4D from Boa Vista, Cape Verde (AF-086), between 17 and 24 October. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. It will not be a fully 24 hours operation, but they will try their best. Off-island support is Jose, EB5BBM. QSL via EB7DX.

### History this week

The week starting 20 July 2015

1587 - The first English child is born in the New World - Virginia Dare  
1775 - Benjamin Franklin becomes the first US Postmaster General  
1851 - Gold was found near present-day Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia  
1880 - The first commercial hydroelectric power plant begins, Grand Rapids, Mich  
1897 - Marconi's "Wireless Telegraph and Signal Company" was formed  
1937 - The death of Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, developer of radio  
1944 - The first jet fighter used in combat - Messerschmitt 262  
1955 - The first sub powered by a liquid metal cooled reactor launched - the Seawolf  
1969 - Apollo 11 goes into Moon orbit  
1983 - Dick Smith, VK2DIK, makes the first solo helicopter flight around the world  
1991 - University of Manchester scientist announce finding a planet outside of the solar system  
2010 - ZS4BS met Carina Crawley on 21 July over a cup of coffee (which ended with three cups of coffee!)

2941 (SR) the company reaches Beorn's homestead (20 July)

2941 (SR) the company departs from Beorn's home (23 July)

2941 (SR) the Company approaches the west edge of Mirkwood (25 July)

2941 (SR) Gandalf leaves the company at the edge of Mirkwood (26 July)

Get on the **RaDAR**....and GO!

**RA**DAR  
GOES GLOBAL

### Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 20 to 27 July 2015

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 20 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 July 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 22 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 24 July 2015

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekday\\_sprint/submit\\_display.php?submit\\_id=99](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit_display.php?submit_id=99)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekday\\_sprint/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/)

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 22 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 23 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 25 July 2015

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>



RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 23 July

Mode: RTTY, PSK

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 July 2015

Upload log at:

<http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/r80mcc.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 24 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 25 July 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

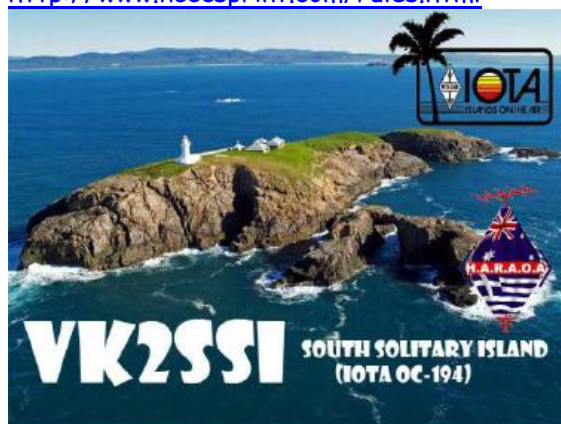
[http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm)

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 24 July

Mode: RTTY  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 26 July 2015  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at:  
<http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

NCCC Sprint  
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 24 July  
 Mode: (see rules)  
 Bands: (see rules)  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 26 July 2015  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at:  
<http://www.3830scores.com/>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at:  
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>



RSGB IOTA Contest:  
 12:00 UTC 25 July to 12:00 UTC 26 July  
 Mode: CW, SSB  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op 12 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op 24 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 12 hours - island or world - CW, SSB

or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 24 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op Island - QRP, low or high  
 Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RS(T), serial no and IOTA no (if applicable)  
 Work stations: Once per band per mode  
 QSO Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: Each IOTA reference once per band per mode  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 16 August 2015  
 E-mail logs to: [iota.logs@rsqbcc.org](mailto:iota.logs@rsqbcc.org)  
 Mail logs to: RSGB IOTA Contest, Radio Society of Great Britain, 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford MK44 3WH, England  
 Find rules at:  
<http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/riota.shtml>

County Hunters CW Contest  
 14:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 25 July and 14:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 26 July  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Fixed; Mobile  
 Exchange: RST and state and county or "DX"  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: each US County once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 31 August 2015  
 E-mail logs to: [w3dya@juno.com](mailto:w3dya@juno.com)  
 Mail logs to: Norm Beavers, W3DYA, 3320 McMillan Dr., Tyler, TX 75701-8239, USA  
 Find rules at: <http://www.countyhunter.com/>

ARS Flight of the Bumblebees  
 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 26 July  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Home-Based; Bumblebee  
 Max power: 5 Watts

Exchange: Home: RST, state, province or country and power; Bumblebee: RST, state, province or country and Bumblebee no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total Bumblebees x 3

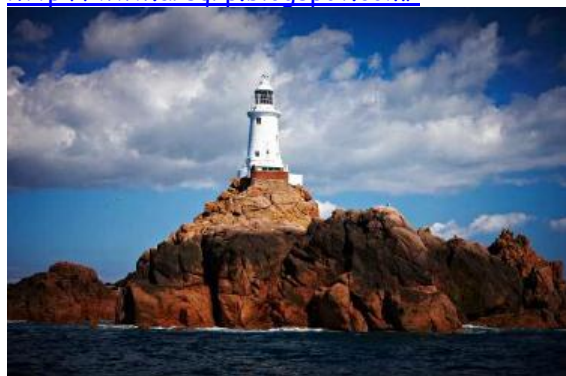
Submit logs by: 9 August 2014

E-mail logs to: [ARSBumblebees@gmail.com](mailto:ARSBumblebees@gmail.com)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.arsgrp.blogspot.com/>



### Next Week's Contests

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 July  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC  
and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 July and 03:00 -  
04:00 UTC 30 July

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 31 July

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 31  
July

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 31  
July

TARA Grid Dip Shindig, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 1  
August

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB, 00:01 UTC  
1 August to 23:59 UTC 2 August

International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend  
Contest, 00:01 UTC 1 August to 23:59 UTC 2  
August (not to be confused with the ILLW  
on 15 and 16 August)

European HF Championship, 12:00 - 23:59  
UTC 1 August

ARRL August UHF Contest, 18:00 UTC 1 Au-  
gust to 18:00 UTC 2 August

North American QSO Party, CW, 18:00 UTC  
1 August to 05:59 UTC 2 August

RSGB RoPoCo CW, 07:00 - 08:30 UTC 2 Au-  
gust

SARL HF Phone Contest, 13:00 - 16:30 UTC  
2 August

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 4  
August



Items used with acknowledgement to the  
ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL  
Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bul-  
letin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the  
RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC  
News, the Islands, the Amateur Radio News-  
letter and the Castles and Portable Opera-  
tions Bulletin

[www.dashtoons.com/Feedline%20Braai.html](http://www.dashtoons.com/Feedline%20Braai.html)